nothing in your letter which justifies your assumption of Presidential authority in such a matter." The Cabinet could do nothing without the President, Mr. Wilson pointed out, and "therefore there could have been no disadvantage in awaiting action with regard to matters concerning which action could not have been taken without me."

Breach Started in Paris

The President mentions the "increasing reluctance" of Mr. Lansing in following Presidential instructions, which he first noticed at Paris, but which had been increasing. He goes on to discuss the attempts of Mr. Lansing to "forestall" the President's judgment by attempting to submit decisions for approval instead of letting the President "examine the circumstances with any degree of independence." He then calls for Mr. Lansing's resignation.

Mr. Lansing's reply, written yesterday, states that he has been conscious since January, 1919, that the President was no longer disposed to accept his advice on the peace negotiations, or the foreign service, or on international affairs in general. His resignation, however, he thought, might have been misconstrued both at home or abroad, so he stayed on to avoid embarrassment to the President. On his return to America his wish to resign increased, but again resignation might have been misconstrued, he said, as hostility to the ratification of the treaty. Then came the President's illness, and Mr. Lansing says he felt it his duty to remain until the President's recovery "permitted you to assume again full direction of foreign affairs."

Lansing Defends His Course

Mr. Lansing declares with the sharpest language in his letter with regard to the Cabinet meeting: "I believed then, and I believe now that the conferences were for the best interests of your Administration and the Republic, and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did."

Denying that he was attempting to forestall the President's judgment, Mr. Lansing admits that when he thought a case demanded immediate action he had advised what he thought the action should be.

"This," he said, "I conceived to be a function of the Secretary of State, and I have followed the practice for the last four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs."

That last clause, in the minds of some here to-night, is the most sweeping criticism ever made of Woodrow Wilson by one of his official family.

The President closed the correspondence with a brief note to-day, accepting the Lansing resignation "at once."

Clashed Over Jenkins Case

One of the incidents to which it is understood the President had reference in which Mr. Lansing, in the President's opinion, attempted to forestall Wilsonian opinion, was in the Jenkins case. Secretary Lansing inspired the Fall resolution requesting the President to withdraw recognition from Carranza and sever diplomatic relations with Mexico. It was on this occasion that the President saw Senators Hitchcock and Fall in his sick room, later writing a tart note telling the Senate that the conduct of foreign affairs should be left to the President, in whom they were vested by the Constitution.

The resolution also approved the "action of the Department of State," which was the action of Mr. Lansing as indorsed by Ambassador Henry B. Fletcher. Curiously enough, Mr. Fletcher also has just resigned.

Polk Now Acting Secretary

One theory evolved to-night in the groping around for the real reason of the President's sudden decision to oust Mr. Lansing was that the Lord Grey letter on the peace treaty had something to do with it. Just a few days before the President's first letter to Mr. Lansing was written, last Saturday, it became known at the White House that the President was very indignant over the Grey letter. On Thursday, two days before the letter to Lansing was written, Secretary Tumulty virtually confirmed the reports printed that morning that the President was strongly displeased. Tumulty permitted himself to be quoted as saying the President never heard of the Grey letter until it was printed, and generally gave the impression that it was a "breach of courtesy."

The theory is that perhaps the President for some reason thought that Mr. Lansing should have been able to prevent any such blow at the fight the President was making to get the peace treaty ratified without reservations.

Frank L. Polk, Under Secretary of State, became acting Secretary of State to-day, and will continue in that capacity until the President names a successor to Mr. Lansing. It is possible that Mr. Polk will be promoted, but Washington does not expect this. The President has surprised officials here so much by his appointments in the last few weeks that most people have given up the habit of trying to guess who would be appointed to any particular place. The theory of many officials to-night seems to be that as Mr. Polk is rather the logical man for the place he will not be appointed.

Mr. Lansing's resignation was a distinct shock in Washington to-night. Had it occurred while he was in Paris those who had received some word about the state of affairs between the President and the members of the American peace mission would not have been surprised. Had it occurred after Mr. Lansing's testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, when he clearly showed how he was ignored by the President, and given the President's confidence on scarcely anything of importance, there would have been no surprise. Or had it occurred after William C. Bullitt told the committee that Mr. Lansing had told him the treaty was "thoroughly bad" and that the American people would reject it if they ever discovered what "it lets them in for," no one would have been surprised.

Surprise at Wilson Reasons

But despite the fact that Mr. Lansing has not seen the President since his return from Europe it had been assumed here that Mr. Lansing had no intention of resigning, although there have always been a few who insisted he was merely holding on through a sense of loyalty until the treaty should have been ratified, with the idea that his resignation would have made his chief's path in fighting for ratification that much harder.

But there is even greater astonishment at the President's sudden desire to force Mr. Lansing out of the Cabinet and at the reason given for this action. The idea that Mr. Lansing was actually annoying the President by attempting to usurp Presidential functions caused much amusement in some circles in Washington. Mr. Lansing always has been so profoundly and obviously desirous of doing exactly as the President wanted, it is pointed out by those who find amusement in the idea of his acting as a usurper, that they are at a loss to explain the President's resentment.

But they are also at a loss to understand why the President should be annoyed because Mr. Lansing made decisions for action—so long as he submitted them to his chief before action was actually taken. It is pointed out that in the one case mentioned, with regard to the Senate resolution on the Jenkins situation, Mr. Lansing did start something before the President was consulted, and perhaps this proved irritating to the President.

There are some here who, looking over the recent Cabinet changes, think the President desired another important Cabinet vacancy to fill, especially as many of his stanch supporters have been sorely disappointed at his failure to follow their wishes on filling the posts of Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of the Interior and Ambassador to Italy. Those holding this view, however, do not understand why Mr. Wilson did not merely request Mr. Lansing's resignation without reference to Mr. Lansing's alleged attempt to usurp Presidential functions.

Mr. Wilson's feeling against Mr. Lansing, it is thought in some quarters, is really due far less to Mr. Lansing's presiding over Cabinet meetings during Mr. Wilson's illness than to the disclosures by William C. Bullitt to the American people of Mr. Lansing's opinion on the peace treaty. The peace treaty, it is pointed out by those holding this view, is the one thing closer to Mr. Wilson's heart than anything else. Mr. Lansing was quoted as saying this was "thoroughly bad," and he never denied this quotation.

Letters That Precipitated Retirement of Lansing

Continued from page 1

pertaining to the negotiations in Paris, to our foreign service, or to international affairs in general. Holding these views I would, if I had consulted my personal inclination alone, have resigned as Secretary of State and as a commissioner to negotiate peace. I felt, however, that such a step might have been misinterpreted both at home and abroad, and that it was my duty to cause you no embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which you were then engaged. Possibly I erred in this, but if I did it was with the best of motives.

"When I returned to Washington in the latter part of July, 1919, my personal wish to resign had not changed, but again I felt that loyalty to you and my duty to the Administration compelled me to defer action, as my resignation might have been misconstrued into hostility to the ratification of the treaty of peace, or at least into disapproval of your views as to the form of ratification. I, therefore, remained silent, avoiding any comment on the frequent reports that we were not in full agreement. Subsequently your serious illness, during which I have never seen you, imposed upon me the duty—at least I construed it to be my duty—to remain in charge of the Department of State until your health permitted you to assume again full direction of foreign affairs.

"Believing that that time had arrived, I had prepared my resignation, when my only doubt as to the propriety of placing it in your hands was removed by your letter indicating that it would be entirely acceptable to you.

Denies Forestalling Wilson's Judgment

"I think, Mr. President, in accordance with the frankness which has marked this correspondence and for which I am grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that in callling into informal conference the heads of the executive departments I sought to usurp your Presidential authority. I had no such intention, no such thought. I believed then, and I believe now, that the conferences which were held were for the best interests of your administration and of the Republic, and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances, and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did.

"I also feel, Mr. President, that candor compels me to say that I cannot agree with your statement that I have tried to forestall your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely asking your approval, when it was impossible for you to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence. I have, it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action, advised you what, in my opinion, that action should be, stating at the same time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This, I conceived to be a function of the Secretary of State, and I have followed the practise for the last four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs.

"I need hardly add that I leave the office of Secretary of State with only good will toward you, Mr. President, and with a sense of profound relief.

"Forgetting our differences and remembering only your many kindnesses in the past, I have the honor to be, Mr. President, sincerely yours,

ROBERT LANSING."

Accepted With "Best Wishes"

"The White House, Washington, February 13, 1920.

"My Dear Mr. Secretary.

"Allow me to acknowledge with appreciation your letter of February 12. It now being evident, Mr. Secretary, that we have both of us felt the embarrassment of our recent relations with each other, I feel it my duty to accept your resignation, to take effect at once, at the same time adding that I hope that the future holds for you many successes of the most gratifying sort. My best wishes will always follow you, and it will be a matter of gratification to me always to remember our delightful personal relations. Sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON."

with President over continental army.

William Gibbs McAdoo, Secretary of Treasury, November 23, 1918, pecuniary reasons.

Thomas W. Gregory, Attorney General, January 13, 1919, pecuniary reasons.

William C. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, September 5, 1919, pecuniary reasons.

Carter Glass, Secretary of Treasury, November, 1919, to become Senator from Virginia. Did not actually surrender office until January, 1920.

David Franklin Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, January 27, 1920, to become Secretary of Treasury.

Franklin Knight Lane, Secretary of Interior, (effective) March 1, 1920, (supposedly) pecuniary reasons.

Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, February 14, 1920, disagreement with President over Cabinet meetings.

Lansing Succeeded Bryan in 1915; Will Again Practice Law

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Robert Lansing was appointed Secretary of State ad interim after the resignation of Mr. Bryan, on June 9, 1915, and served until June 23 of the same year, when he was made Secretary. He has not announced his plans for the future, but is expected to return to the practice of international laws, as did his father-in-law, John W. Foster, when he completed his term as Secretary of State.

Mr. Lansing entered the State Department in 1914 as counselor after having represented the government on a number of diplomatic missions and arbitration commissions. These included service as associate counsel in the Bering Sea arbitration in the early '90s, counsel before the Bering Sea Claims Commission in 1896-'97, solicitor and counsel for American representatives on the Alaskan Boundary Tribunal in 1903 and counsel in the Atlantic fisheries arbitration about ten years ago.

The retiring Secretary is fifty-five years old, and was born and reared in Watertown, N. Y., where he still maintains a home. He was graduated from Amherst College and practised law for three years before beginning his work as representative of the government on various international arbitration commissions.

Mr. Lansing has written several works on international relations and law, the most notable of which is his 'Government; Its Origin, Growth and Form in the United States." He also has written several poems and short plays.

Frank L. Polk, who will be Acting Secretary of State until a successor to Mr. Lansing is chosen, entered the State Department as counsellor on September 16, 1915, succeeding to the post Mr. Lansing held before becoming Secretary. He was made Under-Secretary of State on June 23, 1919, under the legislation passed by the last Congress creating the office. He served as Acting Secretary of State throughout the time Mr. Lansing was at the peace conference in Paris.

Before entering the State Department, Mr. Polk, whose home is in New York, was a member of the Civil Service Commission in New York and also was Corporation Counsel for New York City from January 24, 1914, to September 16, 1915.

Cabinet Changes Of Wilson Regime

Men Who Have Resigned Posts in Official Family and the Reasons

Changes in President Wilson's Cabinet have been many since the first appointments in 1913. Those who have resigned and their reasons follow:

James Clark Reynolds, Attorney General, September 4, 1914, to enter Supreme Court.

William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State, June 8, 1915, unwillingness to sign President Wilson's reply to first German note in Lusitania dispute.

Lindley M. Garrison, Secretary of War, February 11, 1916, disagreement

N. Y. Press on Lansing Ouster

"World" Declares President's Action Calls for "Bill of Particulars"

Editorial comment in New York papers this morning on the resignation of Secretary of State Lansing follows:

The World

Secretary Lansing's resignation is even more sensational than Mr. Bryan's, for in addition to the sudden retirement itself there is the dramatic fact that the resignation was asked for in most bewildering circumstances.

The charge of usurpation made by the President against the Secretary of State is without precedent in the history of the executive department, and the country will not rest satisfied with the cryptic correspondence between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lansing. There will be a general demand for a bill of particulars to explain the President's extraordinary action.

The Times

The President and the Secretary of State part company with an interchange of asperities quite unusual in such surroundings of official relation. However sharp the differences that may have arisen between the Chief Magistrate and a member of his Cabinet, private reasons of indisputable force and plausibility are customarily put forward as the occasion of the Secretary's retirement, and the correspondence given to the public, not always beguiled thereby, abounds in expressions of mutual regret and distinguished consideration. The people of the United States would have been better pleased had that excellent rule been observed in this instance. They dislike exhibitions of high feeling in these exalted places; they are unpleasant and disquieting.

Although the break is sudden, it comes as the culmination of older disagreements. The disclosure some months ago of Mr. Lansing's views concerning some aspects of the peace negotiations at Paris, very frankly expressed, will be recalled as evidence that his relations with his chief have not been altogether harmonious. The correspondence published this morning fully reveals the long-suspected disharmony. The President had found the Secretary not always inclined to observe his wishes and instructions; the Secretary had been pained by the scant heed paid to his official counsels. That state of affairs was sufficiently grave. It amply warranted the proffer of, or the demand for, Mr. Lansing's resignation.

Editors Express Surprise at Act

Comment Hints That Illness of President Has Bearing on Episode

The editorial comment of newspapers in other cities on Secretary Lansing's resignation is epitomized in the following special dispatches to The Tribune:

The Baltimore American

The action of President Wilson in calling for the summary resignation of Secretary Lansing will stand as an almost unprecedented step in the record of the White House. The letters from the President will lead many to believe that he acted in a fit of peevishness and that his long sickness may have had something to do with the determination to get rid of the Secretary. To base such an unusual and extreme act on the unimportant meetings held by the Cabinet during the President's illness is to trifle with the real facts.

The truth of the matter is that there had been ill feeling between the two ever since the Versailles peace conference. President Wilson there assumed the rôle of the chief and only representative of the United States, leaving to the Secretary a position which could just as well been filled by any second rate clerk in the department.

Boston Herald

The resignation of Secretary Lansing comes in sensational fashion, emphasized alike by the delay in the announcement and by the circumstances under which the resignation—or expulsion—came about. It is perhaps true that the President is somewhat improved from his illness, but he is obviously in a very querulous mood.

Public sympathy is likely to be largely with Mr. Lansing unless later developments throw a new light on the differences that led to his sudden departure from Mr. Wilson's official family.

The episode reveals—to any who may have doubted it—the tremendous handicap under which the country has been laboring in recent months, both in the administration of its troubled internal affairs and in its peculiarly complicated international relations, through having in the White House a man too sick to perform the duties of his office.

League Test Due In Missouri To-day

Dominant Issue in Election for Representative to Succeed Alexander

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, Mo., Feb. 13.—The league of nations will be the dominant issue in to-morrow's special election in the 3d Missouri District to elect a successor to Secretary of Commerce Joshua W. Alexander as Representative in Congress. The voters will choose between Captain J. L. Milligan, Democratic nominee and a league supporter, and John E. Frost, Republican, an opponent of the league.

The three weeks' campaign has attracted wide interest and drawn into the district nationally known supporters and opponents of the league, including Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer and United States Senator Hiram Johnson, of California.

Both Democrats and Republicans have marshalled their speakers for the wind-up of the campaign to-morrow. Democratic speakers include former Speaker Champ Clark, Representative James T. Heflin, of Alabama, and Representative Henry P. Rainey, of Illinois. On the Republican side addresses are to be delivered by Representative M. O. McLaughlin, of Nebraska; O. J. Page, of Springfield, Mo., and others.

2,000 Armenians Said To Be Slain by Turks

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The national delegation here states that it has received a message from Constantinople saying that during the recent attacks by nationalist forces on Marash and Aintab, in Asia Minor, about two thousand Armenian civilians were murdered in cold blood.

Robert Lansing

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1921 Tax Rate To Be Raised 10 or 11 Points

Continued from page 1

examiners so as to get things tangled up in the finance department."

Bitter War Declared

Mr. Connolly declared that he wanted to bring it to the attention of the board that if attempts were made to take from the Committee on Salaries and Grades matters that rightfully belong to it "there is going to be retaliation, and that retaliation will come quickly." He said that the Comptroller might succeed in running his own department, but that he, Connolly, was going to run the committee. The report was finally referred to the committee of the whole and the Comptroller declared that the reference killed the report and he was satisfied.

"It doesn't take much to satisfy children," was Mr. Connolly's last retort.

Leonard M. Wallatein, counsel for the Citizens Union, appeared before the board to ask that the Corporation Counsel be requested to give an opinion in regard to the placing of $917,497, the remainder of the appropriation for the Seventh Avenue improvement not assessed on the different boroughs, in the tax rate for this year, and this will be done. The Mayor started to say something about Mr Wallatein's connection with the last administration as Commissioner of Accounts, when the latter interrupted him, saying that he did not care to discuss the last administration, but had appeared before the board on a certain matter, which he had a right to do, at the invitation of the Comptroller.

"Yes," said the Comptroller, "and I'm going to send you an invitation that you'll need cash bail to answer.'

"Well, you'll need cash to pay a fine pretty soon," retorted Mr. Wallstein.

The board made various appropriations, including $2,000,000 to the Street Cleaning Commissioner for the removal of snow. This is in addition to $1,100,000 the Street Cleaning Commissioner has already had, making a total of $3,100,000 that it has cost the city to remove the winter's snow up to date.

New Brunswick Drops History That Praises U. S.

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

MONTREAL, Feb. 13.—Because of complaints that Myers's "General History," used as a textbook in several provinces, gives what is officially termed as undue praise to the United States for the part which that nation took in the war and slights Canada, the book has been ordered removed from schools in New Brunswick.

The distributing firm has been asked by the chief Superintendent of Education to exchange the latest edition for a previous one, and if it is impossible to do this, the superintendent says, it will be necessary to cancel use of the textbook, as it has not been authorized by the Board of Education. The provinces of Nova Scotia and Manitoba, where the book also is used, are expected to take similar action.

Britain and Russia to Exchange War Captives

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 13.—The prolonged negotiations between James O'Grady, representing Great Britain, and M. Litvinoff, on behalf of the Russian Soviet government, ended in an agreement, signed Thursday, under which British war prisoners in Russia will be released and British civilians repatriated, and Russian war prisoners in England will be released and Great Britain will provide transport for repatriation of Russian prisoners in neutral countries.